IOWA

Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Report

November 2010

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Part 1. SCIP Implementation Update

State Overview

Overview of the State and its interoperability challenges:

Iowa is located in the north central portion of the United States and is surrounded by Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The Mississippi River forms the entire eastern border and the Missouri River forms much of the western border. The State has an area of 56,271 square miles and is ranked 26th in the Nation in terms of size.

The population in Iowa is approximately 3,002,555 (2008), ranks 30th in the United States in terms of population, and has increased by only 12.7% since 1950. Population density is around 51 people per square mile. Distribution of the population is scattered across the State, but is generally highest in the central and east central regions and lowest in the southwest and south central regions. Iowa's six largest cities, with estimated populations are: Des Moines (Polk County and the state capitol), 194,163; Cedar Rapids (Linn County), 123,119; Davenport (Scott County), 98,845, Sioux City (Woodbury County), 83,148; Waterloo (Black Hawk County), 66,483; and Iowa City (Johnson County), 62,887. Only two of these six largest counties have populations in excess of 100,000 people. Eleven counties (Black Hawk, Clinton, Dallas, Dubuque, Johnson, Linn, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Story, and Woodbury) of Iowa's 99 counties, account for 51.1% of Iowa's population. Twenty-four of Iowa's counties gained populations since 2000, while seventy-five counties experienced declining populations.

Farms occupy about 86 percent of Iowa's land use, with urban areas (e.g., pavement, buildings, and other large structures) accounting for one percent of the land use. Much of Iowa's terrain consists of flat or gently rolling plains. However, elevation in the State ranges from 480 to 1,670 feet above sea level. The northeast is cut by streams and hills that rise above the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The western portion of the State contains the Loess Hills, which reach hundreds of feet in elevation. The north central region contains most of Iowa's level land. Natural hazards for the State include occasional flooding, snowstorms, ice storms, and occasional blizzards in the winter. Droughts severe enough to cause widespread crop losses occur about every 20 years.

The primary highway system is critical to the passenger, freight, and transportation movements through and throughout the State. Iowa's interstate system, both north-south (I-29 and I-35) and east-west (I-80), intersect to form an interstate crossroads of America, and will continue to play a critical role in national and international trade. There are a total of 3,323 dams within Iowa, 87 being classified as having a high damage potential and 192 classified as having significant hazard potential. There are also ten lock and dam systems along the Mississippi River.

The Iowa Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) does not contain detailed information on specific agency capabilities or an implementation plan for each individual agency to operate on a statewide system. This will be developed as a component of the statewide communications plan funding and build-out.

While numerous State agencies utilize emergency communications systems, the State's radio communications system consists primarily of the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa Department of Transportation's systems. There are multiple local systems in place or in the process of being implemented, some as a result of PSIC (Public Safety Interoperable Communications) grant funding distributed by Iowa's Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB). One such regional, interstate system is STARCOM, a tri-state communications system based in Woodbury County, Iowa that impacts Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Besides the governmental operations, RACOM, which is a privately owned and operated communications system, has a substantial presence in Iowa, serving public safety agencies. All of these local and regional systems have gone through the process of evaluating present systems, identifying future needs, planning to move towards these needs, and creating the governance and funding schemes to create systems that are used on a day-to-day basis.

Vision and Mission

Overview of the interoperable communications vision and mission of Iowa.

The Iowa SCIP has a timeframe of 10 years (December 2007 – December 2017).

Vision: In November, 2009, the ISICSB approved an Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications system (ISICS) master plan (dated 9/2/9/09), which can be found at http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov/planning-documents.html. This master plan will establish a statewide 700 MHz communications backbone to connect the many disparate public safety radio communications systems in Iowa to be used on a daily basis by all responders within a defined framework under an organized governance structure subject to unified operating procedures. It contains a plan for state and local agency migration to the statewide system including alternatives for joining the system or interfacing to it, as well as a proposed phased implementation approach. This proposed statewide system will encompass voice, data, and 9-1-1.

Mission: The ISICSB shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the State and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the Federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

The immediate goals of the ISICSB will focus on five areas:

1. Formalization of the ISICSB governance structure and administrative rules.
2. Successful completion of ten key interoperability initiatives in Iowa funded by the expenditure of the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program funds.
3. Development of a successful stakeholder participation program to support interoperability in Iowa.
4. Support Iowa's conversion and compliance with the FCC's narrowbanding mandate deadline of 12/31/2012.
5. Work with Iowa's Governor and legislature to secure critically needed funding to implement the ISICS Master Plan.

Urban Areas

Overview of the Urban Areas in the State and to what extent they are mentioned in the SCIP

Iowa does not have an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) due to its population demographics previously described in the "State Overview.' However, Iowa selected Ottumwa, a city of 25,000 in southeastern Iowa to develop the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP). The TICP was developed and validated through a Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-evaluated exercise in September 2006. The SCIP indicates the TICP was created for Iowa's Region 5 and lists the counties in Region 5. The SCIP also provides the TICP point of contact, but does not identify the cities and agencies included in the TICP. A copy of the TICP is included as an attachment to the SCIP.

Governance

Overview of the governance structure and practitioner-driven approaches

The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) is responsible for the creation, implementation, and operation of a statewide interoperable communications system. The ISICSB was legislatively created and signed into law in 2007. Members represent the State agencies of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Department of Transportation, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Department of Corrections, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Public Health. Additionally, appointed by the Governor, are two representatives from municipal police departments, sheriffs' offices, fire departments,

and State or local public safety communication center managers, as well as one at-large member. Four members of the Iowa General Assembly, two Senators and two Representatives, also participate as non-voting ex-officio members.

In March, 2010, the ISICSB hired James Bogner as its first full-time statewide interoperability coordinator (SWIC). Mr. Bogner has been designated as the primary day-to-day point-of-contact for interoperability in Iowa, and the ISICSB.

The ISICSB held an initial SCIP Implementation Workshop in January, 2009 which focused on formalizing the governance structure of the ISICSB. This was supplemented by a SCIP Workshop in March, 2010 and a Technical Analysis (TA) Workshop held in May, 2010 focusing on the further development of the ISICSB and regional governance structures in Iowa. A formalized governance structure has been identified for the ISICSB. Iowa law requires entities like the ISICSB to follow an administrative rule-making procedure, rather than the adoption of by-laws. This process has begun and is anticipated to take approximately six additional months to complete.

Iowa has already scheduled a SCIP Workshop focusing on regional governance and outreach for March, 2011 to assist in finalizing development of these initiatives.

Interoperability agreements within Iowa include Special Use Agreements, Emergency Operations Plans, and an Iowa Mutual Aid Assistance Compact. The Iowa SWIC is in contact with its neighboring states to further interoperability efforts. He and the ISICSB have actively engaged Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Missouri in interoperability issues and initiatives. Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 7, Regional Emergency Communication Coordination Working Group (RECCWG), which includes the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, have begun meeting to discuss interoperability and identify mutually beneficial opportunities.

The ISICSB has reached out to other public and private entities in Iowa to explore ‘cooperative efforts’, rather than ‘partnerships’, as the latter term has legal and contractual meanings in Iowa. Safeguard Iowa partnership, created in 2007, is a voluntary coalition of the State’s business and government leaders that shares a commitment to working together to prevent, protect, respond, and recover from catastrophic events in Iowa. It was created by the Iowa Business Council and representatives from key State agencies, and facilitated by the non-profit Business Executives for National Security (BENS). This partnership provides a way for the ISICSB to reach out to the greater business community. Current members include representatives from manufacturing, agriculture, energy, insurance, communications, health care, banking, transportation, food supply, government, and education.

As noted above, as of March, 2010, Iowa has a full-time Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) in place. He works out of an office furnished by the Iowa Department of Public Safety, as follows:

James Bogner, Iowa SWIC
215 E. 7th St. Room 225
Des Moines, IA 50319-1902
(515) 725-6108
bogner@dps.state.ia.us

Governance Initiatives

The following table outlines the strategic governance initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
NECP Initiatives				
Establish a full-time statewide interoperability coordinator or equivalent position.	*Gap filled by hiring full-time SWIC*	*ISICSB*	*03/2010*	*Completed*
Incorporate the recommended membership into the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB)[1].	*Gap filled - 2007 legislation specified SIGB membership as noted previously*	*Iowa Legislature*	*09/2007*	*Completed*
Establish the SIGB via legislation or executive order.	Gap filled – 2007 legislation established SIGB	Iowa Legislature	September 2007	Completed
Additional State Initiatives				

1 SIGBs should include representatives from the Governor's office, State and local elected officials, State and local emergency medical services, State and local health officials, State and local fire response services, State and local law enforcement, State and local emergency management, State and local homeland security offices, tribal governments, State and local transportation agencies, military organizations, Federal agencies that need to be interoperable with State and local emergency responders, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) regions, critical infrastructure, non-government organizations, response and recovery organizations, and regional planning committee chairpersons. This guidance is included in the Statewide Interoperability Planning Guidebook: http://www.safecomprogram.gov/NR/rdonlyres/18F02413-CC4D-41B2-9097-F5FF04E080C7/0/StatewidePlanningGuidebookFINAL.pdf.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
Establish a more formalized governance structure with standing and ad hoc committees and working groups to address operational elements including standard operating procedures (SOPs), training, exercises, and funding.	*Formalize Governance structure through state administrative process to sustain initiatives and accomplish legislative mandates.*	*ISICSB Iowa SWIC*	*April 2011*	*In Progress*
Hold regularly scheduled ISICSB meetings.	*Sustain governance initiatives and stakeholder outreach*	*ISICSB Iowa SWIC*	*Monthly*	*In Progress*
Expand stakeholder outreach to additional public and private, traditional and non-traditional agencies.	*Establish a more formal and defined outreach plan*	*ISICSB Outreach Committee*	*April 2011*	*In Progress*
Engage tribes through their respective communications centers.	*Establish a more extensive outreach effort.*	*ISICSB*	*July 2011*	*In Progress*
Establish a funding committee to specifically identify and address interoperability funding in Iowa.	*Funding must be a priority issue for the ISICSB.*	*ISICSB*	*Annually with legislative cycle and grants*	*In Progress*
Create a detailed SCIP implementation plan with associated operating and training procedures that will facilitate implementing the master plan.	*The statewide master plan does not contain implementation and operational details. It will be updated in the coming year.*	*ISICSB Iowa SWIC*	*September 2011*	*In Progress*
Increase interstate interoperability with other FEMA Region 7 states.	*Participate in semi-annual Region 7 RECCWG meetings*	*Iowa SWIC*	*September 2011*	*In Progress*
Guide public safety agencies in Iowa through narrowbanding	*Continue outreach and guidance efforts*	*Iowa SWIC*	*December 2012*	*In Progress*

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	Gap *(Brief Description)*	Owner *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	Milestone Date *(Month/Year)*	Status *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
conversion.				

Standard Operating Procedures

Overview of the shared interoperable communications-focused SOPs

The ISICSB recognizes the importance of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Plain Language, and standardized operating procedures as key components to communications interoperability. It has supported statewide efforts to ensure both State and local responders have proper information to implement and become compliant with NIMS. In 2004, Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) developed a statewide NIMS Implementation Plan that addressed State, local, and tribal jurisdictions. HSEMD produced a CD that assisted local jurisdictions in becoming NIMS-compliant with 2006 standards and by November 2007, Iowa demonstrated 95 percent NIMS compliancy.

In 2010, the ISICSB established a committee to examine the issue of Plain Language' and Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels, as published by APCO/NPSTC in 2010. As a result, the ISICSB has initiated action to take a formal position on endorsing Plain Language and Standard Channel Nomenclature in Iowa to improve interoperability. Information on these initiatives is posted on the ISICSB web site, and discussed during outreach efforts by the SWIC.

In May, 2010, the ISICSB held a Technical Analysis (TA) Workshop on SOP Development, and as a result drafted an SOP template for use as the statewide interoperable communications system is built-out.

The ISICSB will also be seeking input from regional public safety systems on their SOPs to incorporate best practices into the statewide system. As the statewide system is built-out, a formal SOP committee will be established to promulgate appropriate SOP policies. As Iowa does not presently have a statewide system in place, this initiative is pending.

The ISICSB sponsored a Communications – Leader (COM-L) class in March, 2009 in central Iowa, and again one in November, 2010 in northwest Iowa to promote SOPs, NIMS, Plain Language, Standardized Channel Nomenclature, and Tactical Interoperable Communication Plans (TICPs). The ISICSB is planning on sponsoring a similar class in eastern Iowa in early

2011.

SOPs in the TICP Scorecard for the City of Ottumwa achieved "established implementation." The TICP reviewers recommended that the SOPs in place needed to be more robustly exercised so that all responders would become familiar with them.

There are initiatives in place to evaluate the current state and develop SOPs.

SOP Initiatives

The following table should outline the SOP strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
NECP Initiatives				
Tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level.	*The ISICSB is developing a regional component for outreach, training, and education. This initiative is being incorporated into this effort.*	*ISICSB Committee*	*April 2011*	*In Progress*
All Federal, State, local and tribal emergency response providers within UASI jurisdictions implement the Communications and Information Management section of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).	*Iowa does not have a UASI; however, the ISICSB does promote NIMS, and started action regarding adoption of Plain Language, and Standard Channel Nomenclature, especially during narrowbanding*	*ISICSB*	*December 2012*	*In Progress*

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
	conversion.			
Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into SOPs.	*ISICSB will promote this, especially during narrowbanding conversion.*	*ISICSB*	*December 2012*	*In Progress*
Update SCIP to reflect plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the Incident Command System (ICS).	*Present SCIP does not address this. It will be incorporated into the SCIP revision in 2011.*	*ISICSB Iowa SWIC*	*November 2011*	*Not started*
Define alternate/backup capabilities in emergency communications plans.	*Template drafted*	*ISICSB*	*December 2012*	*In Progress*
Additional State Initiatives				
Establish a standing committee of the ISICSB responsible for developing and disseminating SOPs.	*Committee being established under governance process*	*ISICSB*	*April 2011*	*In Progress*
Meet NIMS requirements for all procedures developed.	*In draft SOP template*	*ISICSB*	*July 2011*	*In Progress*
Seek participation of Federal, local, county, regional, tribal, and private response agencies in creating SOPs.	*Will be included in formal standing committee*	*ISICSB*	*July 2011*	*In Progress*
Evaluate the current state of any SOPs used within the State and research any best practices.	*Ongoing with development of draft SOP template*	*ISICSB*	*July 2011*	*In Progress*
Develop SOPs to support all users of a statewide interoperable communications system.	*Not explicitly stated*	*ISICSB*	*July 2010*	*In Progress*

Technology

Overview of the technology approaches, current capabilities, and planned systems:

Radio interoperability among public safety agencies throughout Iowa varies widely with numerous disparate radio systems of different ages and technologies. Most counties share an emergency communications center for law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical services (EMS). There are 122 Public Safety Access Points (PSAPs) in Iowa's 99 counties. When agencies operate in the same frequency band, they often use mutual aid channels for interoperable communications; gateways or console patches are used for interoperability for agencies operating in a different frequency band.

A detailed, emergency communications-focused survey was conducted in 2004 throughout Iowa with responses received from 12 cities, 72 counties, and eight State agencies. It revealed that first responders in Iowa use a variety of radio systems in all public safety frequency bands. The survey results are summarized in the SCIP. There are statewide, regional, and local systems, but only the statewide systems are specifically identified in the SCIP. The two largest statewide systems are owned by the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Iowa Department of Public Safety. These systems are nearing the end of their life expectancy and need to be replaced rather than upgraded.

Iowa's most immediate concern over the next two years, like other states, is the FCC narrowbanding mandate with a deadline of 12/31/2012. The Iowa SWIC has been aggressively educating public safety entities in Iowa about this mandate and assisting in narrowbanding transition management, not only within Iowa, but coordinating Iowa's efforts with its adjacent states. The ISICSB recently issued a statewide narrowbanding guidance letter to all Iowa public safety agencies.

Iowa intends this new statewide interoperable communications system to be standards-based, system-of-systems operating in the 700 megahertz (MHz) frequency spectrum. The implementation plan includes a migration plan for agencies to either connect to the new system when required or to use it full-time. The proposed implementation plan also addresses data networks. Iowa intends to use grant funds to create implementation plans, operating procedures and develop training materials for the new system. The ISICSB will be responsible for creating, implementing, and managing the new statewide interoperable communications system.

In October, 2009, the ISICSB applied for an FCC Waiver to operate a 700 MHz broadband wireless public safety network. It was granted this waiver, along with twenty other entities, in May, 2010. The ISICSB Chair and Iowa SWIC are coordinating their efforts for this emerging LTE (Long Term Evolution) broadband network with the other waiver recipients through the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) – Operators Advisory Committee (OAC). The ISICSB, like other waiver entities, unsuccessfully applied for a build-out grant under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in July, 2010. The ISICB will meet with the incoming Governor and legislature in 2011 to discuss funding for the construction of this wireless network component of the statewide master plan.

ISICSB is in the process of completing the purchases of Strategic Tactical Reserve (STR) equipment, as identified in the STR investment justification contained in the PSIC grant package. The first of these actions is the purchase of 911 Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) for placement in the Woodbury County Mobile Communications Vehicle. After this is complete, the radio purchases will be completed in the Woodbury and Scott County mobile communications vehicles as well as one owned by the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

Major Systems

The following tables list the major systems in Iowa and include those used for solely interoperable communications, large regional systems specifically designed to provide interoperability solutions, and large wireless data networks.

Shared Statewide System[2] *(Name)*	Description *(Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)*	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communication System (ISICS)	*700 MHz, P25, LMR and Wireless Broadband Network (WBN)*	*Planned – Master Plan for this system approved November, 2009; Will seek legislative funding in 2011.*

[2] Shared statewide radio systems are typically designed to consolidate the communications of multiple State agencies onto a single system, thereby providing strong interoperability. Many States also make these systems available to Federal, local, and tribal agencies on a voluntary basis. In this case, local governments either chose to use the shared statewide radio system as their primary system, or they decided to interface their system to the shared statewide radio system creating a system of systems.

State Systems *(Name)*	Description *(Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)*	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS)	*VHF, non-P25 high band system; will begin transition to narrowband in two phases: Base - April, 2011, and Mutual Aid Channels - April, 2012.*	*Existing*
Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT)	*P25 VHF conventional narrowband system.*	*Existing*
IDOT Data Radio Network	*VHF system.*	*Existing*
Iowa Communications Network (ICN)	*Statewide fiber optics network available to State and local government for full-motion video, to support WBN and telephones, etc.*	*Existing*

Regional Systems *(Name)*	Description *(Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)*	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
STARCOM system	*Tri-State (Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska) P25 regional system operated by Woodbury County, Iowa*	*Existing*
RACOM network	*Privately-owned, 800 MHz infrastructure available for lease and used by a number of Iowa public safety agencies and surrounding States.*	*Existing*

Technology Initiatives

The following table outlines the technology strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
NECP Initiatives				
Program nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios.	Promoted by ISICSB, especially during narrowband conversion process	ISICSB	December 2012	In Progress
Additional State Initiatives				
Establish an STR (Strategic Tactical Reserve) cache.	*Iowa has identified the equipment needed and is acquiring.*	*ISICSB Woodbury, and Scott Counties; Iowa DPS*	*September, 2011*	*In Progress*
Complete local PSIC grant projects (10) awarded to increase interoperability technologies in Iowa.	*Grants awarded and projects being monitored for completion.*	*ISICSB*	*September, 2011*	*In Progress*
Move to an Internet Protocol (IP) based backbone.	*IP Microwave will be a component of the statewide system build-out, particularly the WBN and NG911 upgrades/conversions. Also, ICN is expanding its fiber network over the next 3 years to support PSAPs.*	*ISICSB; E911 Program Manager*	*Near-term: 1-3 years*	*Not Started; Awaiting funding*
Develop migration plan to the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS).	*The statewide master plan contains a general migration plan; detailed planning will occur when funding is identified for*	*ISICSB*	*September 2010 (Master Plan); Short-term: 1-3 years*	*In Progress; Awaiting construction funding*

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
	the system build-out.			
Build a network that will meet all NIMS requirements.	*Initiative identified in statewide master plan; will occur when funding acquired.*	*ISICSB*	*Short-term: 1-3 years*	*Awaiting funding*

Training and Exercises

Overview of the diversity, frequency, and inter-agency coordination of training and exercises:

The ISICSB's governance plan establishes a Training and Exercises Standing Committee to develop a plan that will reach out to all stakeholders to educate and support them in the build-out and operation of the statewide interoperable communications system.

At the present time, the Iowa SWIC has aggressively reached out and provided education and training regarding the FCC's 12/31/12 narrowbanding mandate to Iowa's six homeland security regions, 2010 Governor's Homeland Security Conference, Iowa League of Cities, and Iowa State Association of Counties. Additionally, educational materials have been placed on the ISICSB web site.

The Iowa SWIC is a regularly scheduled participant at Iowa's E911Council meetings as outreach and education efforts on behalf of the ISICSB as they relate to PSAPs and the 911 community in Iowa.

Training

All Iowa telecommunicators are required to have 40 hours of training to meet State guidelines. This training is conducted through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. The course covers information regarding receiving 9-1-1 calls and dispatching, as well as instruction on NIMS and how it functions in the emergency communications environment. Additionally, telecommunicators are required to complete eight hours of annual in-service training. Local emergency communications centers can pursue any other training that they deem necessary, such as emergency medical dispatch and hostage negotiations.

Training for emergency responders other than telecommunicators is not described in Iowa's SCIP.

The ISICSB sponsored a Communications – Leader (COM-L) class in March, 2009 in central Iowa, and one in November, 2010 in northwest Iowa to promote SOPs, NIMS, Plain Language, Standardized Channel Nomenclature, and TICPs. It is planning on sponsoring a similar class in eastern Iowa in early 2011.

The ISICSB Chair and Iowa SWIC have produced training and education Power Points as well as assembled materials for use in training sessions and presentations regarding interoperability and narrowbanding. These materials have also been placed on the ISICSB web site for all stakeholders.

Exercises

State and county emergency management agencies maintain an exercise schedule to remain in compliance with various Federal and State funding guidelines. Several exercises of varying size and complexity are completed each year. In most of these exercises, communications is one of the tested elements. Iowa's plan for completion of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Goal 2 is to include a communications component in each such exercise. Participants include Federal, State, local, and private responders of all disciplines as well as government, State, and local officials. Additionally, all scheduled and future exercises are being developed to ensure that the proper NIMS elements are being tested.

The Iowa SWIC is a key member of the Tri-state (Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota) Exercise Planning Committee. A communications table-top exercise focusing on interoperability in response to a terrorist incident is being planned for December 1, 2010 for this group, with a follow-up full-scale exercise being planned for early 2011. It is anticipated that this exercise will also be used to fulfill the NECP Goal2 requirement for sixteen counties (three in Iowa) in the tri-state area.

Training and Exercises Initiatives

The following table outlines the training and exercises strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
NECP Initiatives				
Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into training and exercises.	*This initiative will be promoted in the above tri-state exercise as well as future training and exercises, especially during the next two years of narrowbanding conversion.*	*ISICSB*	*Near-term: 1-3 years*	*In Progress*
Complete disaster communications training and exercises.	*On-going ISICSB and HSEMD initiative to train and educate public safety responders..*	*ISICSB*	*Near-term: 1-3 years*	*In Progress*
Additional State Initiatives				
Use the standing committee process to establish a training and exercise plan to support all users of a statewide interoperable communications system..	*Is first order of business of newly formed committee.*	*ISICSB*	*July, 2011*	*In Progress*
Evaluate the current state of training and exercising used within the State and research any best practices.	*Training will be coordinated with the HSEMD and Iowa Homeland Security Regions*	*ISICSB*	*April, 2011*	*In Progress*

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
Seek Federal, local, county, regional, tribal, and private response agencies participation in creating the plan.	*An initiative by the Training and Exercise as well as the Outreach Committees being formed.*	*ISICSB*	*April, 2011*	*In Progress*
Meet NIMS requirements in the plan.	*Also, an initiative of the SOP Committee.*	*ISICSB*	*July, 2011*	*Not Started*

Usage

Overview of the testing of equipment and promotion of interoperability solutions:

The Iowa SCIP cites the Code of Iowa Chapter 80.28 definition of interoperability as "the ability of public safety and public services personnel to communicate and to share data on an immediate basis, on demand, when needed, and when authorized." Iowa recognizes the need for the optimal level of interoperability on a daily basis.

As drafted, daily usage plans and SOPs will be developed by the SOP Committee in the coming year generally, and more specifically as the statewide interoperable communications system is being built-out.

The ISICSB has already taken the position to begin promoting Plain Language and Standard Channel Nomenclature for agencies during the narrowbanding conversion process over the next two years in preparation for the statewide system.

Usage Initiatives

The following table outlines the usage strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
Achieve daily usage by first responders of the statewide interoperable communications network by developing a robust set of SOPs and an ambitious training and exercise regimen.	*This is the mission of the SOP and Training and Exercise Committees, as the ISICSB seeks build-out of the ISICS.*	*ISICSB (SOP and Training and Exercise Committees)*	*Near term: To be completed with the build-out of the ISICS.*	*Not Started*

National Emergency Communications Plan Goals

The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) established a national vision for the future state of emergency communications. The desired future state is that emergency responders can communicate as needed, on demand, and as authorized at all levels of government across all disciplines. To measure progress towards this vision, three strategic goals were established:

Goal 1—By 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated with the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)[3] are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications[4] within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

Goal 2—By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

Goal 3—By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlines in national planning scenarios.

As previously noted in the 'Urban Areas' section, Iowa does not have a UASI.

[3] As identified in FY08 Homeland Security Grant Program

[4] Response-level emergency communication refers to the capacity of individuals with primary operational leadership responsibility to manage resources and make timely decisions during an incident involving multiple agencies, without technical or procedural communications impediments.

Part 2 - UASI Communications Interoperability Capabilities Assessment Grid

Urban Areas

Overview of the Urban Areas in the State and to what extent they are mentioned in the SCIP

Iowa does not have an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) due to its population demographics as previously noted.

Part 3. NECP Goal 2 Methodology

Goal 2 Methodology

In the section below, describe the methodology that you will use in 2011 for demonstrating and reporting Goal 2 of the NECP for all county or county equivalents in your State. Methodologies should address the following:

- *The incorporation of all counties or county equivalents*
- *Proposed approach to collect capability data (including from individual UASI counties)*
- *Proposed approach to collect performance data (including from individual UASI counties)*[5]
- *County-level input prior to submission of Goal 2 data to OEC*
- *Completion of data collection by September 30, 2011*

[5] Counties with significant participation in NECP Goal 1 demonstrations can use the results for their Goal 2 performance data

In July, 2010, the Iowa SWIC initiated outreach contacts with the Iowa Emergency Managers Association (IEMA) and the six Iowa Homeland Security regions, through outreach and educational presentations about the NECP and Goal 2. The Iowa SWIC also was a presenter at the Governor's Homeland Security Conference in November, 2010 where he again educated attendees about the NECP and Goal 2. These efforts have resulted in outreach to all of Iowa's 99 counties regarding Goal 2 per the information released by OEC to date.

All 99 counties are being included in this Goal 2 methodology, primarily through the Iowa Emergency Managers Association (IEMA). Points-of-contacts (POCs) are being established in each county to inform them of the capability data and performance data requirements, and to gather and assess that county's information prior to input.

The Iowa SWIC has overall responsibility for providing each county emergency coordinator and sheriff with the Goal 2 procedures, monitoring each county's progress and reporting, and ensuring that each county provides an interoperability assessment for entry into the online reporting tool under Goal 2 by the September 30, 2011 deadline.